NOTE XVII.

AN UNDESCRIBED FORM OF *MICROGLOSSUS ATERRIMUS*

BY

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The typical habitat of *Microglossus aterrimus* (Gmelin) is Australia, where the bird is found only in the northern part. Under this name black cockatoos from New Guinea, and by some authors also from the Aroe Islands, Misool, Salawatti and Waigeoe, have been mentioned; Messrs. Rothschild and Hartert, however, separate birds from the last named islands subspecifically from those of New Guinea. Specimens from the Aroe Islands are, as a rule, much smaller than those from New Guinea and the western Papuan Islands, so that it is correct to recognise them as a subspecies, named *Microglossus aterrimus alecto* (Temminck), or, probably more correctly, *M. a. intermedia* (Schlegel), as the type-specimen of *Ara alecto* Temminck is without indication of habitat and as there have been observed also very small specimens in the western Papuan Islands; Schlegel in 1861 mentioned under the name of *Cac. intermedia* birds from the Aroe Islands. In the Leyden Museum are 10 specimens from the Aroe Islands, measuring: ♂♂, wing 310—357 mm., culmen 69—95 mm.; ♀♀, wing 318—346 mm., culmen 73—92 mm.

Specimens from Waigeoe, Gemien, Salawatti and Misool are, as a rule, larger than those from the Aroe Islands, measuring: ♂♂, wing 342—382 mm., culmen 94—112 mm.; ♀♀, wing 335—370 mm., culmen 74—87 mm. Specimens from Misool seem to be smaller than those from the three other islands. The Leyden Museum possesses 7 specimens from Waigeoe, 1 from Gemien, 3 from Salawatti and 3 from Misool.

The largest specimens in the collection are those from the northwestern peninsula of New Guinea (3 from Dorei, 1 from Andai, 1 from Doktur and 1 from Sorong) and from Skroe, Westcoast of New Guinea (3 specimens),

measuring: ♂♂, wing 386—400 mm., culmen 97—103 mm.; ♀♀, wing 380—400 mm., culmen 79—108 mm. Much smaller are the specimens (15) from the Noord River, South New Guinea, measuring: ♂♂, wing 373—374 mm., culmen 101—111 mm.; ♀♀, wing 334—365 mm., culmen 72—84 mm.

Individuals from all the named localities differ only in size, not in plumage. I have not seen examples from Australia, but according to Schlegel and to Finsch these are smaller than those from Northwest New Guinea, Waigeoe and Salawatti. They likely agree with examples from South New Guinea.

The material at my disposal is too insufficient as to say how many forms, except that of the Aroe Islands, are to be recognised. When the examples from Australia and from South New Guinea are constantly smaller, then the large examples from Northwest New Guinea also must be separated subspecifically.

There are however in the Leyden Museum two adult black cockatoos from the Northcoast of New Guinea, a male from the Humboldt Bay 23 March 1903 and a female from Lake Sentani 28 June 1903, collected by Messrs. de Beaufort and Lorentz during the Wichmann Expedition. These birds are quite differing from the other specimens in our collection by the shape of the crestfeathers. These feathers are much narrower, about the half, and more pointed than those of the specimens from the other localities, except a specimen from the island of Jobi in the Geelvink Bay, in which the crestfeathers are also narrower, but less than in the two above-named birds. The difference is so conspicuous, that I separate the birds from the Humboldt Bay under the name of

Microglossus aterrimus stenolophus, nov. subsp.

They measure: ♂, wing 393 mm., culmen 114 mm.; ♀, wing 359 mm., culmen 87 mm.

The specimen from Jobi has the crestfeathers a little broader, but still much narrower than those of the specimens from Dorei and other localities; it is intermediate between those from the Humboldt Bay and from West New Guinea and probably belongs to another subspecies. This specimen, a male, measures: wing 362, culmen 96 mm.

Leyden Museum, April 1911.